

Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1. (currently amended) A web cam system, comprising:
 - a digital camera for capturing an image of a scene,
 - wherein said digital camera is configured to generate image data,
 - wherein said digital camera is configured to be connected with a computer, and
 - wherein said digital camera is configured to provide said image data to said computer;
 - a computer program product comprising:
 - a computer useable medium having computer readable code embodied therein for causing the interfacing of said digital camera with said computer, said computer program product comprising:
 - an image capturing computer readable program code portion configured to cause said computer to effect the capturing of said image, wherein said image comprises still ~~and~~ or video images;
 - an internet interfacing computer readable program code portion configured to cause said computer to effect the transmittal of said image data, for incorporation of said image data into a web cam page, to a web site hosting said web cam page; and
 - an interlude switch configured to be connected with said digital camera,
 - wherein said interlude switch is configured to be toggled between a view mode and an interlude mode;
- wherein said view mode provides live images from said digital camera; and
wherein said interlude mode provides at least one alternate image from a source other than a live image captured by said digital camera.

2. (original) The web cam system of claim 1 wherein said interlude switch when toggled to said view mode:

causes said image capturing computer readable program code portion to drive said digital camera to capture images of a scene; and

causes said internet interfacing computer readable program code portion to effect the transmittal of said image data, for incorporation of said image data into said web cam page, to a web site hosting said web cam page.

3. (original) The web cam system of claim 1 wherein said interlude switch when toggled to said interlude mode:

causes said image capturing computer readable program code portion to stop said digital camera from capturing images of a scene;

causes said internet interfacing computer readable program code portion to effect the replacement of said image data with preselected images; and

causes said internet interfacing computer readable program code portion to effect the transmittal of said preselected images, for incorporation of said preselected images into said web cam page, to a web site hosting said web cam page, as if said preselected images were captured by said digital camera.

4. (original) The web cam system of claim 1 wherein said interlude switch when toggled to said interlude mode:

causes said image capturing computer readable program code portion to stop said digital camera from capturing images of a scene; and

causes said internet interfacing computer readable program code portion to drive said web site to effect the replacement of said image data with preselected images, as if said preselected images were captured by said digital camera.

5. (original) The web cam system of claim 1 wherein said interlude switch is a manual switch configured to toggle between said view mode and said interlude mode.

6. (original) The web cam system of claim 1 wherein said interlude switch is a light sensitive switch configured to toggle between said view mode and said interlude mode.

7. (original) The web cam system of claim 1 wherein said interlude switch is mounted on a telephone base unit.

8. (original) The web cam system of claim 1 wherein said interlude switch is an automatic switch configured to toggle between said view mode and said interlude mode in response to an external event.

9. (original) The web cam system of claim 8 wherein said external event is one of: a telephone call, a telephone call response, a motion detection signal, a sound level signal, a doorbell sound, a doorbell, a movement of a door, or a movement of a window.

10. (original) The web cam system of claim 3 or claim 4 wherein said preselected images are one of: still images, slide shows, video images, commercials, or images captured by another web cam system.

11. (original) The web cam system of claim 10 wherein said preselected images are stored on said computer.

12. (original) The web cam system of claim 10 wherein said preselected images are stored at a remote site.

13. - 17. (cancel).

18. (currently amended) A method of operating a web cam, wherein said web cam is configured to be toggled between a view and an interlude mode, comprising:

capturing images of a scene using a first digital camera, and updating a web cam page when said interlude switch is in a view mode;

~~stopping the capturing of images by said web cam when said interlude switch is in its interlude mode; and~~

replacing said images with ~~prerecorded~~ alternate images when said interlude switch is in an interlude mode, such that a viewer viewing said web cam page would see ~~prerecorded images~~ at least one alternate image in place of captured images from said first digital camera, when said web cam is operating in its interlude mode.

19. (original) The method of claim 18 wherein said web cam is configured to be toggled between said view and said interlude mode by a manual operation.

20. (original) The method of claim 18 wherein said web cam is configured to be toggled between said view and said interlude automatically.

21. (new) The method of claim 18 wherein said at least one alternate image is a stored still image.

22. (new) The method of claim 18 wherein said at least one alternate image is a stored video image.

23. (new) The method of claim 18 wherein said at least one alternate image is an image from a second digital camera.

24. (new) The method of claim 18 wherein said first digital camera is normally in said interlude mode, and is switched into said view mode when a video call is initiated.

25. (new) The web cam system of claim 1 wherein said web cam is normally in said interlude mode, and is switched into said view mode when a video call is initiated.

26. (new) The web cam system of claim 1 wherein said interlude switch is computer code configured to cause a change in the source of images.

27. (new) The web cam system of claim 1 wherein said source other than a live image captured by said digital camera is a second digital camera.